

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, July 11, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC.

July 11, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN COOKSEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Tommy Nelson, Pastor, Denton Bible Church, Denton, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Our Father, You have made us as You have made all things. You have established the nations and their boundaries, You have ordained their leaders, their authority and the absolutes by which they rule. To You, who are the foundation of justice, of love and equality, we ask Your sovereign mercy.

Grant these men and women, whom You have vested, the wisdom to perceive Your pleasure, the skill to implement it, the courage to stand by the right, and the consistency and the integrity of life to merit the trust of this Nation, who has looked unto them. Encourage them and surround their families and marriages with Your blessing and help and truth.

Have mercies on this Nation through them, to walk in Thy way and know Thy peace.

In Thy Holy and Merciful Name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a

quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WU led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1. An act to close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility, and choice, so that no child is left behind.

H.R. 2216. An act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 1) "An Act to close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility, and choice, so that no child is left behind", requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. GREGG, Mr. FRIST, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BOND, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ALLARD, and Mr. ENSIGN, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2216) "An Act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes", requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. BYRD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr.

COCHRAN, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND TOMMY NELSON, PASTOR, DENTON BIBLE CHURCH, DENTON, TEXAS

(Mr. THORNBERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the majority leader, and my colleague the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), it is my privilege to welcome as our guest chaplain today Tom Nelson, the Senior Pastor of Denton Bible Church in Denton, Texas.

Tom was born and raised in Waco and grew up in a family of four boys. He attended what is now the University of North Texas in Denton, where he played quarterback for the football team and earned his degree in 1973. From there, he attended Dallas Seminary.

Tom has been pastoring at Denton Bible Church for 23 years. With over 4,000 members, Denton Bible Church is the largest church in Denton. Beside the four services he leads each Sunday, Tom disciples over 30 young men and teaches two men's bible studies.

In addition, Tom has served as a national speaker for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Campus Crusade for Christ, and Navigators. He is the author of two books and three video series. His taped messages have been heard throughout the world. Tom and his wife Teresa have two sons, Benjamin and John Clark.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to welcome Tom Nelson to the Congress of the United States. I would like to thank him for his leadership in the community of Denton and express my appreciation for his leading the House today in prayer.

SUPPORT FLETCHER-PETERSON BALANCED PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my strong support for a meaningful and responsible Patients' Bill of Rights recently introduced by my colleagues and friends, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER)

and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON).

We have been debating this issue for years, and it is time to give Americans what they need and what they deserve. This bill ensures that Americans will have access to medical care, including pediatric services, OB-GYN, specialists and emergency care. It further provides accountability by assuring those who make medical decisions which result in an injury are held responsible for their actions.

And this bill assures Americans can count on affordable health care. After all, what good is a Patients' Bill of Rights if millions of more Americans are unable to afford health care?

I call upon everyone in this Chamber to support the Fletcher-Peterson bill. It is a balanced Patients' Bill of Rights, which ensures that medical decisions are made by doctors and patients, and not by HMO gatekeepers or lawyers.

APPROVE FEDERAL FUNDING OF STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Ms. ESHOO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was recently visited in my office here in Washington by two of my young constituents, Mary Lucas, 9 years old, and Kelsey Kagle, 15. They both have juvenile diabetes.

Mary Lucas, the 9-year-old, said something to me that has remained with me and I think always will. She told me that if we found a vaccine or a cure for diabetes, and if there was not enough for everyone, she would give up her share to someone who needed it more than her. Her unselfish words, I think, are instructive to us.

How will we cure juvenile diabetes? One promising method is by investing in stem cell research, which has the potential to cure diseases that afflict tens of millions of Americans today, diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

According to a recent article in the New York Times, a study by the NIH sites the dazzling array of treatments that may result from research on both embryonic and adult stem cells. The report makes clear that embryonic stem cells are clearly superior to adult stem cells for stem cell research.

Most Americans understand that stem cell research is not about destroying lives, but prolonging and bringing quality to and curing American lives today. So let us get this out of political science and keep it in the hands of the real scientists that understand this, and let us take a giant step, Mr. President, and allow Federal funding for stem cell research.

WALK FAR FOR NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR AUTISM RESEARCH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, these posters portray two beautiful, happy children, Bonnie and Willis Flick. What these pictures do not portray is that Bonnie and Willis cannot effectively communicate with their parents or their playmates because they live with autism.

In recent years autism has risen dramatically across our Nation, and although it typically affects 1 in every 500 children, in my hometown of Miami-Dade County, the rate of autism in young children has jumped to about 1 in every 250.

On Saturday, November 3, I will participate in Walk Far for NAAR, the National Alliance for Autism Research. This will raise funds for research projects and fellowships to fight this devastating disorder.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the chair of this year's walkathon, Patricia Cambo, and the co-chairs, Rene Vega and Dr. Michael Alessandri, as well as last year's co-chairs, Michelle Cruz and Marie Ilene Whitehurst.

Due to the success of Walk Far, the National Alliance for Autism Research more than doubled its level of funding for this year, and we hold promise that a cure for autism is just around the bend for Bonnie and Willis Flick and many other children with autism.

SUPPORT USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Ms. DEGETTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, why should we use Federal money for embryonic stem cell research? While it is a difficult medical-ethical decision to make sure we put controls in place, embryonic stem cell research promises new breakthroughs in science that will help literally tens of millions of Americans.

There are three reasons why we need to make sure this research is federally funded and federally supervised.

First, medical breakthroughs of underestimated value are available through funding of this research. A large body of successful work with mouse embryonic stem cells shows these cells are superior to adult stem cells in the development of what may be cures for diabetes, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's and other chronic diseases.

Second, Federal funding provide necessary oversight of stem cell research. This is the new frontier, and we need to make sure we keep control of it.

Finally, America has the greatest health, medical and science community in the world. Federal funding will help U.S. scientists keep pace with international researchers. We need to find the cure for diabetes, we need to find the cure for Parkinson's, for Alzheimer's and so many other diseases. Let us keep this research going.

FUND ADULT STEM CELL RESEARCH GENEROUSLY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, we must have stem cell research. Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes, these are all very serious diseases that have no cures. But our research must be ethical. Adult stem cell research holds the most promise for finding cures.

We should fund adult stem cell research, and fund it generously, but not embryonic stem cell research. Creating human embryos for research, experimentation, harvesting and destruction is not ethical. Killing one human life, even though very tiny, on the off chance of maybe one day saving another, is not ethical, moral, and, I should add, even legal to do with taxpayer money.

Since 1996, our laws ban government funding of research that involves killing human embryos. We should keep that ban. Now we have a study that shows that embryonic stem cells may be too unstable to be of much use anyway, unless they are produced in huge numbers. But there is no such evidence that adult stem cells are unstable.

Adult stem cell research holds great promise. Adult stem cell research promises to help us find cures to diseases that have plagued mankind for centuries. Let us fund adult stem cell research, and fund it generously.

CHINA DOES NOT DESERVE TO HOST 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, China has executed 1,781 citizens in the last 90 days. That is more executions than the entire world performed over the last 3 years. China is now even executing citizens for pimping and prostitution. It is getting so bad that Chinese citizens, Chinese lovers, in fact, are afraid to kiss in public. Meanwhile, China says it is necessary to ensure "social stability."

Now, if that is not enough to power surge your electric chair, China is in line to host the 2008 Olympic games.

Beam me up. The Olympic games are designed to be a celebration of life, not death. China does not deserve to host these games.